

Sunshine Homes for Blind Babies.

The Sunshine Homes for Blind Babies at East Grinstead, Leamington and Southport are residential nursery schools for the upbringing and education of blind babies from birth to school age, the Home at Leamington being reserved for retarded children. It is easy to realise that the lives of these little children, handicapped as they are by the deprivation of the blessed gift of sight, are made as happy as possible by the love and care and sunshine with which they are surrounded in the Sunshine Homes and Gardens. It is good news that "the accommodation at the Homes meets the present need; fortunately, infantile blindness is gradually declining, mainly owing to the continually improving arrangements for maternity and child welfare." When we remember that many of these Sunshine children are the offspring of ignorant or careless parents living in overcrowded and squalid homes, the value to these little children in health, happiness, education, can scarcely be overestimated. The Homes aim to stimulate the desire for independence, self-reliance and thoughtfulness for others, by free movement in the house and grounds and excursions outside, in personal cleanliness, dressing, undressing, tidying, caring for toys and dolls, and care of animal pets and flowers, physical exercises and games.

"The present-day Sunshine Children are very different to the blind infants of other days, who knew nothing of the outside world and were apparently content to stay within four walls, listen to a gramophone and walk round the garden in tails, one behind the other. The elder children are at home in town; they know the shops by the smell of the goods; they 'sense' spaces, gateways, arches, walls by the echo of their footsteps."

Occupations of the Blind.

Among the many occupations followed by the blind those among which they specially excel are massage and electrotherapy, and the qualified masseur and masseuse are now recognised by the medical profession and the public as fully qualified and dependable healers.

The Report is full of the good and useful work of the Institute. We are not able in the space at our disposal to refer to a tithe of it. We quote the following invitation.

"If you are able to visit the Institute will you kindly bear in mind that although you will be warmly welcome any day at any time, our Visitors' Day is on Wednesday, and parties of visitors are received at 2.15 p.m. and 3.15 p.m.; there are also special facilities for inspection on Monday and Friday. On Saturdays the blind staff are not at work."

The Report is obtainable from 224, Great Portland Street, London, W.1, price 6d., and we know of nowhere where you could get better (or as good) value for the money.

We are indebted to the courtesy of the Secretary of the National Institute for the illustrations of this article.

AN IRRESISTIBLE APPEAL.

ANOTHER OPERATING THEATRE NEEDED AT MOORFIELDS.

In a corner of the workshop there is a sudden hissing, spitting sound. A man is seen to stagger, and then to fall. There is a momentary hush—then action. It is seen that the injured man is badly burned on his face and hands. Somebody rushes to the first-aid cabinet for dressings. The works manager arrives and is quickly told what has happened. He has a whispered word with the injured man, then "We'd better get him to 'Moorfields,' he thinks it's his eyes as well." The man is rushed to hospital and is immediately taken to the operating theatre and soon deft hands are working to save his sight.

We hope that you will forgive this somewhat dramatic (though not exaggerated) introduction to the operating theatre at Moorfields Eye Hospital. The time has come when we need another theatre, and quite frankly we do not know how best to present this appeal for the necessary money. We have been told that it is a mistake to show pictures of operating theatres, but as you will have seen, we have done so. May we suggest that you look upon the operating theatre at "Moorfields" as the Gateway to restored sight for some thousands of patients each year. Some of them are accident cases, some of them are old folk suffering from cataract, some of them are children, and some of them, bless them, are mere babes. They come from homes in all parts of the kingdom, suffering from all sorts and conditions of eye disease. They have been brought to "Moorfields" in their hour of need. Only the skill and knowledge of the surgeon can help them, and that skill and knowledge can only be properly exercised when working under the aseptic conditions available in the operating theatre. . . . We there-

fore present our appeal in this simple way. We need another operating theatre, so we show you a picture of a theatre; we remind you that the work of "Moorfields" is nothing less than the prevention and cure of blindness, and we ask you to send something towards the £2,500 that the new operating theatre will cost.

Have you time for a glimpse of "Moorfields" with its two hundred beds, all filled? Stay a moment in one of the wards—how quickly you sense the pathos, the happiness, the courage, and the occasional humour of hospital life. . . . You will remember no doubt for a long time the woman who told you that she came in blind, and was going home able to see. Nor will you easily forget the man in whom you were interested, for Sister told you that he may never see again. Well, now that you have seen just a little of the work of "Moorfields" will you please send something towards that new operating theatre?



The Sunniest of Greetings to the Sunshine Gardens.

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